GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3958
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005
FORCE DISAPPEARANCES IN PUNJAB
Nambadan Shri Lonappan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHRC has not fulfilled its mandate to investigate forced disappearances in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NHRC is mandated by the Supreme Court direction that to investigate 2097 cases of illegal cremations in Punjab`s Amritsar district; and

(d) if so, the status of the investigation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a)to(d): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) received a remit from the Supreme Court of India to examine 2097 cremations of dead bodies by the Punjab Police in the police districts of Amritsar, Majitha and Tarn Taran of district Amritsar, Punjab. In furtherance of the remit, the Commission has so far awarded compensation in 109 cases. The Commission vide its proceedings dated 11.11.2004 awarded a compensation of Rs. 2.50 lakhs to the next of kin of each of the 109 deceased persons, amounting to Rs. 2,72,50,000/-. The deceased persons were admittedly in the custody of Punjab police at the time of their deaths.